

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 48

By Fitzhugh

### A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Specialist Keith Eric Essary of Dyersburg.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely death of Specialist Keith Eric Essary, a courageous member of the United States Army who gave his life in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, following in the patriotic tradition for which Dyersburg, Dyer County, and the Volunteer State are renowned, Specialist Keith Essary was a brave and honorable member of the United States Army, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, based in Fort Hood, Texas, with his unit attached to the 101st Airborne Division; and

WHEREAS, Keith Essary, who was twenty years of age, lost his life while conducting combat operations in Maiwand, Afghanistan, on January 8, 2009; and

WHEREAS, a Dyersburg native, he graduated from Dyer County High School in 2006 and enlisted in the U.S. Army at the beginning of his senior year of high school; and

WHEREAS, an avid motorcycle enthusiast, Keith Essary enjoyed riding and talking about motorcycles with his father, being a "good guy" to his friends, and listening to Johnny Cash; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Essary was deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and like thousands of others of this great nation's sons and daughters, he did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty; and

WHEREAS, Keith Essary's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of family, his fellow soldiers, and his country are exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear and stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured

the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, Keith Essary was raised in the home of his grandparents Anita Essary and the late Monty Essary, Sr., and he maintained a close relationship with both his father, Chuck Hall, and his mother, Mary Beth Franks; he is survived by sisters, Bethany Willard, Taylor Clark, and Brook Hall, and brother, Randy Hall; and

WHEREAS, this valiant Tennessean leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, the late Specialist Keith Eric Essary, United States Army, whose loss is mourned by a grateful nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Specialist Keith Eric Essary, a man of impeccable character and limitless courage who stalwartly committed himself to the defense of his nation as a member of the United States Army, and reflect fondly upon his bravery and dedication to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Specialist Essary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.